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Dear Harold:

I'm finally getting around to sending you zerox copies of articles, etc. which I know you will find of interest. Of course, they are yours to keep.

As you requested in your last letter I'm enclosing with this letter some return address stickers with my name, etc. on them. You can just stick these on any letter or package you send me. If you start running out of these, let me know & I'll send more.

One of your requests in your letter was if I had any reference documents on Helms testimony before the HSCA which concerns authorizations from the White House not put on paper. This I have not had the chance to check up on but I put a memo on my desk to look into it. So I'll write you in my next letter what I can find.

Another request to me was anything I may have on the Sy Hersh book & I've enclosed what I have in the way of articles, book reviews, etc. These are self-explanatory so I need not go into what they contact. I do believe that the Gary Wills piece in the latest "New York Review of Books" is perhaps the best debunking one of all.

By the way I watched the 2-hour Peter Jennings ABC-TV show, "Dangerous Years" on the Kennedy years. This was aired here in S.F. on Thursday, Dec. 4th. In the credits I noted that

Sy Hersh was listed as an "interviewer" which should come as no surprise for the program was practically a re-run of Hersh's book (I've not read it all but I did read Hersh's section on an alleged bribe Kennedy was reputed to have taken on the TFX-contract. I searched high + low for a single person he could quote or a specific document to be cited but there was nothing - not one word. Hersh loosely ties Exner in with a rather loose connection with someone at General Dynamics + thus, claims Kennedy could've been "blackmailed" into accepting the contract. I imagine if Robert McNamara read this he'd be chortling out loud - perhaps he has read it!

You might also be interested that in the credits to the Peter Jennings show they listed a Gus Russo. I'm sure I've written you about him before but just to refresh your memory, Gus showed up at some of the earlier JFK conferences held in Chicago, Dallas + Washington. He's not been seen in any conference for about 4 years.

My understanding is that Gus was working on a book on Cuba + Kennedy (pretty much the same subject John Newman is reputed working on). Gus was a consultant on the Nova show years ago which Posner helped to put out. That program virtually adopted Oswald as lone assassin. Gus years ago told me he's had a change of heart about the conspiracy scenario and now leaned to the other direction. I'm convinced he is now totally of the "lone nut" theory persuasion.

Gus tried to get the ~~the~~ name of the person I thought was the person who called you back in December, 1966 to tell of Oswald as a barracks room-mate + all about Oswald's "crypto" clearance. I wouldn't give it to him because frankly I distrusted him handling this. (It turns out that the person I thought it was was not the person who called you based on a friend's looking into it. (Incidentally, Marwell of the ARRB tried hard to get that name from me but I, again, wouldn't give it to him).

Just to give you more info on Gus Russo I had told him of my suspicion that Oswald had some kind of ONI connection. I had asked Gus to see if he could contact knowledgeable people in the ONI who would be in a position to evaluate this claim. Gus got back to me & said he'd gone to (what he considered) people who had to know & he told me they said there was nothing to the claim. When I asked who ~~[illegible]~~ he'd gone to he never answered. In any event Gus really hadn't proved to me anything at all so I gave up on him doing further work. I'd be distrustful of anything he'd provide me with.

Now to get to the conferences in Dallas I attended last month. I spent virtually all of the time at the Lancer conference run pretty much by George Evica & Debra Conway. On Sunday when there was no Lancer conference I attended the last 2 sessions of the COPA conference. The ~~first~~ first sessim was devoted to Groden & the Zapruder film. Groden did a very good job of explaining why the Z-film couldn't be altered. Despite this there were 2 people (who had attended the Lancer conference) who argued vehemently with Groden & said they still believed the Z-film alteration. I stood up & defended Groder's positim & offered my own (& rational) arguments as to the silliness of the claimants of Z-film alteration. They never really answered my arguments — & how could they?!

Groden told me afterwards he wants to have nothing to do with Lancer as they'd done him wrong.

At the 2nd sessim (& last) of the Sunday COPA there was a medical panel headed by Brad Parker. He is a medical student & is pretty sharp on the evidence. I put in my analysis of the medical evidence tying it in with the Z film & said I didn't believe the back of the head was blown out. I was practically in the minority on this position (one one supported me) but I laid out various pieces of evidence

rebutting the back of the head but no one supported me. They seem to be held back by blinders and it is my belief that last year's Lancer conference which was dominated by arguments for Z-film alteration was a powerful influence on the people who support the idea of alteration.

Although this year's Lancer conference did not go heavily into Z-film alteration it added to the silliness by having both John Armstrong & Jack White developing a "3 Oswald & 2 Marguerite" thesis. (I call it the "JACK & JOHN SHOW"). Hour upon hour was spent on hearing their talks. That was the dominant feature of this year's conference.

If I didn't mention it, at one point in their talks one of them flashed on the screen a photo of an alleged Oswald who was sporting a moustache! I think it was Jack White who said that he had contacted a photogrammetist who claimed the photo revealed "many" of the same features in Oswald's face. (I recall that when White appeared before the HSCA he was asked what professional experience he had in photogrammetry & he replied that he had none).

I wonder what the HSCA would've made of White's "chain of evidence" in obtaining the Oswald with moustache photo. White said he got it from John Judge who obtained it from Mae Brussell. From what White said the "Oswald" who gave the photo to Mae gave it to her claiming he was Oswald & walked off! Frankly, anything that either Judge or Brussell palm off as "evidence" is laughable. I've never had any faith in either!

I know you're familiar with a new book by ~~Hale~~ Noel Twyman, "Bloody Treason" (I sent you a brochure on it) but you may not be familiar with a book by James Fetzer which is titled "Assassination Science". I picked up both and am in the process of reading both. It was Fetzer last year who denounced me at the Lancer conference when I said I didn't believe in Z-film alteration & I disputed some of Dr. Mantik's arguments on Z-film alteration. Mantik admitted he'd made errors in his presentation (which was at a very critical point in his evidence) but Fetzer attacked me & said I was acting "irrational" & I didn't know what I was talking about.

Both Twyman & Fetzer in their books support Z-film alteration. Twyman for his part not only claims the Z-film was altered but also says the Nix film was altered & Twyman wholly supports the Lifton "body alteration" thesis. Twyman is all wrong on his sequence of shots & while denouncing the Z-film as unauthentic then states he supports the Warren Commission conclusion that a shot hit JFK between frames Z-210 & Z-225. (It is too long to go into here but he contradicts himself on 2 different pages & probably doesn't realize it).

Last year I had dinner with Twyman & he told me he was working on a book "proving" Z-film alteration. I told him I didn't believe this & his reply was, "Well, wait 'till you see the book - you'll see my evidence!"

Well, now I've seen his "evidence" and I have even stronger reasons for showing his failure(s). It's ironic, too, because after I bought Twyman's book (he autographed it for me) he asked me to check for typographical errors. He may have recalled that I said I worked for a printing firm & proof-reading was part of my duties.

Not only have I found some pretty bad typos (& there are many) but there are factual errors plus inadequacies in his "scientific" evidence. He may not like what I say in my review but it's his responsibility for getting the book right.

When I do finish my review (or reviews) on both the Fetzer & Twyman books I'll send them to you. I've not yet written them up but I'm acquiring a list of errors in both books.

And speaking of books I enclosed a Xerox copy of a book by Smith & Marcus who claim to have done a computer re-enactment "scientifically" without using Warren Commission or HSCA findings. His book is called "THE DAY IN QUESTION"! But he's all wrong in his sequence of shots fired. You'll see when you read it.

I must say, however, that Smith who gave his slide presentation at the Lancer conference did praise both you & Sylvia Meagher as "true Americans." (If Smith was familiar with your work why hadn't he taken into account your observations on when (in the Z-film) the shot hit JFK)??!

Sometimes I think these writers on JFK don't really look at what they're reading!

By the way you'd be interested in knowing that Fetzer appeared on the Michael Reagan talk radio show (Michael is the son of Ronald Reagan & clearly of a total right-wing persuasion as is his father). I didn't hear the program but I was told Michael let Fetzer talk (without interrupting) for about 45 minutes. Michael never uttered a word in rebuttal & I assume Fetzer was promoting fake Z-film, autopsy & X-Ray photos & who knows what else.

After Fetzer finished Michael had Gerald Posner on for only about 20 minutes. I was told Posner launched into an attack on Fetzer that was like this: Posner = "Well, you see these people (theorists) can't find errors in our evidence so they have to resort to desparate measures claiming (our - that is Posner's) evidence is faked." Michael readily agreed with Posner (which, of course, should come as no surprise) and as I told my friend who told me of the radio program Posner won that argument hands down! Can you imagine what Posner would've done had he attended the Lancer conference & heard the "3 Oswalds & 2 Marguerite" theory?! Of stuff like this gets on the INTERNET one shudders to think of what is coming out there!

One final note before I close this letter. As you know there was a Nov. 22nd talk here in S.F. which I, of course, couldn't attend. I was told Paul Hoch was there so I called him up. I was curious as to why he attended & he told me there was nothing else happening of interest so he decided to come. Only 20 people showed up & only Bill Turner & Gary Aguilar spoke. Gary was pushing his slide show trying to convince those present that 30 people described a rear of head complete blow-out. (By the way included in my copies I've sent you is Aguilar's article he submitted to a local paper. Gary said they printed nearly all of it).

Jim DiEugenio who was a scheduled speaker never showed up (Gary had paid for his entire plane flight). No reason was given why he didn't show up. DiEugenio has a history of failing to show.

My friend Julian Lagos (he helped produce my JFK-TV shows) who organized the S.F. event told me Bill Turner showed up drunk & that he "reeked" of alcohol. He said Turner read from a prepared script never looking up & at one point someone asked him "are you reading from a script?!" Julian said it was very embarrassing.

So goes it in Dallas & S.F.—

Best,
Hal Verb